Rockledge, July 4, 1869.

My dear Wendell:

Your last letter was read with interest and pleasure by us all. We know how incessantly your time is occupied, and therefore it would be unreasonable for us to expect you to write frequently or at any length.

I thank you for mailing the copies of the Independent to the persons named in my letter, as I desired them to see that, if they did not, we on our side of the Atlantic do know how to discriminate between a responsible act of the government and the speech of a Senator made on his individual responsibility. I know that the Senator himself does not like to have that distinction made in this instance, because, as he affirms, he speaks what the government approves; but, until the government officially endorses

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the speech, no private assurances of agreement can be allowed as authoritative.

How Mr. Sumner will regard my second letter I do not know or conjecture. Probably better than the first from the assurance contained in it that I did not mean to detract aught from his speech that was worthy of grave consideration by the English cabinet. Still, he will not be satisfied with my persistency in saying that he is not equivalent to our government itself. What he intends to demand of England as a *sine qua non*, I really cannot make out.

I wish to return my thanks for the copies of the Independent handed to you without charge; but I designed to pay for them as a business transaction.

I am glad that my hastily written letter to Mr. McKim met his wishes. It is entirely at his disposal.

Your mother, and all of us, will be highly gratified to receive the photograph of bro. George Benson and his family.

I do not know whether an article I sent on Friday to the Independent, on the Peace Jubilee in Boston, will be printed this week; but, if so, and this do not arrive too late (as I fear it will) to have the corrections made, I wish the following alterations: where it reads, "I ached in every bone," let it be changed to "I inexpressibly longed," &c.; and toward the close of the article, where I express the opinion that the music and words should have been mainly apropos to our country, I wish for "mainly" to substitute "more largely." But these alterations are of no great importance; only if they can be made without trouble, I should prefer them. Perhaps, however, the article itself may not obtain a place in the paper; and I certainly wish nothing I send to be printed as a favor to me. Besides, I know that the columns of the Independent are overwhelmed with communications from eager and not always considerate contributors.

We are gratified to hear that dear Lucy and you are to take a jaunt to Albany, and trust it will be equally delightful and beneficial to you both. The progress Lloyd is making proves that he is indeed "a broth of a boy." I exceedingly regret that I cannot have him by my side daily.

This 4th of July is sweltering hot, the mercury standing at ninety. Fortunately, it is Sunday, unless to-morrow shall be like unto it. I shall participate in a Temperance celebration at the Grove in Abington, in company with my friend Dr. Lees of England.

William and Ellie, and their children, are spending the day with us. All send loving greetings to you all at the Park, and to George.

The hot weather will prove very trying to your mother, and we shall feel anxious until it is over on her account.

Your loving Father.

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